



Dear Parents/Guardian:

During the 2013-2014 school year, your student's school will implement a biometric finger scanning program in an effort to provide security for your child's cafeteria account, eliminate clerical errors, and provide students an easy way to identify themselves when using the cafeteria. Berkeley County Schools has had the biometric finger scanning identification program at the middle and high schools for several years and is in the process of implementing it in the elementary schools.

What is Biometric Identification?

Biometric identification is automated methods to recognize a student, based upon physiological or behavioral characteristics. Berkeley County School Child Nutrition Department has selected a biometric finger scanning identification computer program because it is fast, accurate, cost-effective and non-intrusive. All fingertips are unique and that makes them ideal for personal identification.

How does finger scanning identification work?

Using a finger scanner, the software scans the fingertip to create and store individual templates of **unique points** that identify each student. When the student returns, the software again scans the finger and looks for a match in the database. When a match is found, the student is identified!

What about my child's privacy?

Although the computer software scans the finger for personal identification, it does not store a copy of a fingerprint. Instead, the computer program creates a template of the unique fingerprint points and characteristics. These templates are stored in the school's database with the same high security of all of your child's records. When your child graduates, the templates are deleted. This insures the privacy of each student. **AT NO TIME IS A FINGERPRINT IMAGE STORED. NO FINGERPRINTS CAN BE RECREATED OR DELIVERED TO ANY AGENCY – GOVERNMENTAL OR OTHERWISE.**

Thanks for being involved!

It is important to us that your child's experience in school is educational and rewarding. We hope you will find this new way of identifying your child to be safe, easy, accurate and efficient. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Tracy Heck
School Nutrition Program, Director
304-267-3500

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